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	JMENTATION PAGE				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188
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25. DECLASSIFICATION / DOWNGRADING SCH	EDULE		n/AVAILABILITY C mited	F REPOR	T .
4. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NU		5. MONITORING	ORGANIZATION F	REPORT N	NUMBER(S)
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION	6b. OFFICE SYMBOL	7a NAME OF M	ONITORING ORGA	NIZATIO	N.
California Institute of Technology	(If applicable)	I i	of Naval		
6c ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Mail Code: 164-30 Pasadena, CA 91125		Code 1	ity, State, and ZIP 113PO (H. Quincy St	Guard	1)
8a. NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable)	Arlingt 9 PROCUREMEN	ton, VA 22 IT INSTRUMENT ID	217-5	
Office of Naval Research ONR 8c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code)		N00014-88-K-0259 10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS			
800 N. Quincy Street Arlington, VA 22217-50	PROGRAM ELEMENT NO. 6153 N	PROJECT NO. 413p006	TASK NO	WORK UNIT ACCESSION NO.	
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) New Synthetic Receptor	Derived from E	Bridged Ant	hracenes.	unc	classified
12 PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) Dennis A. Dougherty	<u> </u>			<u> </u>	
Final Technical FROM	E COVERED 3/1/88 TO 12/31/9	14. DATE OF REPO 0 91 May		Day)	5. PAGE COUNT 4
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION					
17. COSATI CODES	18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reven	se if necessary and	d identif	y by block number)
FIELD GROUP SUB-GROUP					
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necess	ary and identify by block n	umber)			
		DTI DI TOTAL			
20. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRA UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED SAME /		<u> </u>	ECURITY CLASSIFIC		
22a, NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL Harold Guard	226 TELEPHONE 202-696-	(Include Area Code -4409	e) 22c (OFFICE SYMBICS	

DD Form 1473, JUN 86

Previous editions are obsolete.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF The search unclassified

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

Grant No.:N00014-88-K-0259

R&T Code:413p006

Final Technical Report

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New Synthetic Receptor Derived from Bridged Anthracenes

by

Dennis A. Dougherty

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May 31, 1991

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91-03715

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT ONR CONTRACT N00014-88-K-0259

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The major goal of the present contract was to develop new insights into the forces responsible for the association of organic molecules so often seen in biological systems (eg., enzyme-substrate, antibody-antigen, neuroreceptor-neurotransmitter interactions). To this end, a series of water-soluble organic molecules with well-defined hydrophobic binding sites was prepared, and the binding characteristics of several structures were evaluated.

a typical receptor of the type developed in the present work

The most significant discovery of the investigations was the demonstration of the importance of the "cation- π " (or, alternatively, "ion-dipole") interaction in producing tight, oriented binding of a wide variety of "onium" type guests. High

field NMR was the primary tool used to establish the cation- π interaction as a potent force for binding in both aqueous (technical report number 1) and organic media (technical report number 2). In addition, detailed studies revealed the primarily enthalpic nature of the phenomenon and the dangers of overly simplified analyses of binding data (technical report number 3). It seems quite likely that similar binding forces are of critical importance in a variety of biological receptors, especially many that are involved in several aspects of neurochemistry, and future efforts will seek to strengthen this connection.

In addition, the cation- π interaction has been exploited to develop a novel catalytic system (technical report number 4). It was demonstrated that a certain type of alkylation chemistry, in which a partial positive charge is developed in the transition state, is substantially accelerated by our synthetic receptors. The system is truly catalytic, exhibiting turnover and appropriate competitive inhibition behaviors. This is a novel example of taking a binding force that was discovered in "ground state" systems and using it to preferentially bind transition states. Future work will seek to expand upon and exploit this concept to produce powerful catalysts for useful organic transformation.

PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED

"Hydrophobic" Binding of Water-Soluble Guests by High- Symmetry, Chiral Hosts. An Electron-Rich Receptor Site with a General Affinity for Quaternary Ammonium Compounds and Electron- Deficient π Systems. M.A. Petti, T.J. Shepodd, R.E. Barrans, Jr., and D.A. Dougherty, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1988, 110, 6825-6840.

Ion-Dipole Effect as a Force for Molecular Recognition in Organic Media. D.A. Stauffer and D.A. Dougherty, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1988, 29, 6039-6042.

Biomimetic Catalysis of an S_N2 Reaction Resulting from a Novel Form of Transition-State Stabilization. D.A. Stauffer, R.E. Barrans, Jr., and D.A. Dougherty, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 1990, 29, 915-918.

Concerning the Thermodynamics of Molecular Recognition in Aqueous and Organic Media. Evidence for Significant Heat Capacity Effects. D.A. Stauffer, R.E. Barrans, Jr., and D.A. Dougherty, J. Org. Chem., 1990, 55, 2762-2767.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

<u>Technical Report No.1</u> - "'Hydrophobic' Binding of Water-Soluble Guests by HIgh-Symmetry, Chiral Hosts. An Electron-Rich Receptor Site with a General Affinity for Qarternary Ammonium Compounds and Electron-Deficient π Systems." M.A. Petti, T.J. Shepodd, R.E. Barrans, Jr., and D.A. Dougherty.

<u>Technical Report No. 2</u> - "Ion-Dipole Effect as a Force for Molecular Recognition in Organic Media." D.A. Stauffer and D.A. Dougherty.

<u>Technical Report No. 3</u> - Concerning the Thermodynamics of Molecular Recognition in Aqueous and Organic Media. Evidence for Significant Heat Capacity Effects." D.A. Stauffer, R.E. Barrans, Jr., and D.A. Dougherty

<u>Technical Report No. 4</u> - "Biomimetic Catalysis of an S_N2 Reaction Resulting from a Novel Form of Transition-State Stabilization." D.A. Stauffer, R.E. Barran, Jr., and D.A. Dougherty.